

Turn	Speaker	Lines
1	BJ	Yeah? So, you've heard of Pittsburghese, huh?
2	DP	[Oh yeah.]
3	EP	[Oh yes.]
4	BJ	Uhm... =
5	EP	= Yes.
6	BJ	What do you think... what do you think it is? [How would you]
7	EP	[Uhm...]
8	BJ	<u>define</u> Pittsburghese?
9	EP	Well, I <u>think</u> actually, from having been here for awhile and ((4-second pause)) read a little bit about it and talked about it with other people, I think it actually came out of a lot of the Irish immigrants that... that landed here. That's what I heard that [YINZ]
10	BJ	[Um-hm]
11	EP	came from... from the Irish-Scottish [same]
12	DP	[I heard [it was] German. [I heard it was German or Eastern European.]
13	BJ	[Scotch – Irish]
14	EP	Scotch – Irish same, nuance and uh...
15	DP	Yeah.
16	EP	Uh... I don't know about some of the other words that aren't words, like NEBBY and GUMBAN and stuff like that, but...
17	BJ	NEBBY is also a Scotch-Irish word.
18	EP	Is it?
19	DP	Is it really?
20	BJ	Um-hm.
21	DP	I heard <b>JAGGERS</b> was a... a <u>Germanic</u> word, though. I heard Martha <b>Haberin</b> said that there was a word for 'foreign' in German, which was similar to what <b>JAGGERS</b> comes from. I don't know.
22	EP	I don't know. =
23	BJ	= No, English is a Germanic language
24	DP	[Yeah]
25	BJ	[so sometimes it's hard]
26	EP	[Right]
27	DP	[Yeah]
28	BJ	[to sort out]
29	DP	[It's true]
30	EP	[Right]
31	DP	[Yeah.] Yeah.
32	BJ	Know the Germans and what [came from.]
33	DP	[Um-hm.]
34	EP	[Yeah.]
35	BJ	Form =

36	DP	= Yeah
37	BJ	other people who spoke English. Yeah, it's fascinating. I mean, I've done... this is something I do... already know something about it...
38	DP	[Right]
39	EP	[Um-hm]
40	BJ	[ there is a description on this and it really is really [interesting]
41	DP	[Hm]
42	BJ	Somebody ((3-second pause)) people are always ((4-second pause)) emailing me about =
43	DP	= Really? Yeah. (((laughs)))
44	EP	[Yeah]
45	BJ	[normal speech 'cause I'm sort of the person who gets [asked]
46	EP	[Yeah]
47	BJ	About [you know, some article in the paper]
48	DP	[Um-hm. Um-hm]
49	EP	[Yeah]
50	BJ	and so on and...
51	DP	Um-hm.
52	BJ	I sometimes listen to the radio online for Belfast in Northern Ireland =
53	DP	= Um-hm
54	BJ	Which is where the Scotch-Irish people =
55	EP	Right
56	BJ	And they had the weather report and they said it was SLIPPY and (unintelligible)
57	DP	(((loud burst into laughter)))
58	EP	(((burst into laughter)))
59	BJ	[I thought that was a <u>Pittsburgh</u> word.]
60	EP	Actually, I did sort of notice, when we were in England [this]
61	BJ	[Yeah]
62	EP	Summer, and it... you know... it's a.. I thought it was just a Pittsburgh thing... when people say a question they sort of turn it into a statement.
63	BJ	Uhm.
64	EP	Uh... I'm trying to thing of an example, but I've noticed [the]
65	DP	[Has?]
66	EP	exact same [thing]
67	DP	[Right]
67	EP	[In England.]
68	DP	[So, it's gonna' rain today,] isn't it?
69	BJ	Uh-hm. Yeah...
70	DP	(((laughs)))
71	EP	[Exa- Yeah.] Right.
72	BJ	Yeah.
73	EP	[And the]

74	BJ	[YINZ got married] last summer.
75	DP	YINZ got married last summer. [((laughs))]
76	EP	[((laughs))]
77	DP	[That's how I can...] [((laughs))]
78	EP	Yeah, so that... but I... I noticed that all the time in English. And that doesn't bother me as much. I'm like 'Oh!' Well, OK, if they say it here, I suppose it's OK. [((laughs))]
79	DP	[I know]
80	BJ	[Um-hm]
81	DP	[You get offended from Pittsburghese. ((laughs))]
82	EP	[But there are things... well, when people drop 'to be,' when they say THE CAR NEEDS WASHED, that drives me <u>insane</u> .]
83	DP	[((laughs))]
84	EP	[I can't stand that.] Especially when I am in an elementary school and I hear teachers ((intake of breath)) [saying that]
85	DP	[Um-hm. Um-hm.]
86	EP	When I hear teachers saying GUMBAN and [things like that]
87	DP	[Um-hm]
88	EP	It <u>really</u> really bothers me.
89	DP	[Why?]
90	BJ	[Um-hm]
91	EP	[Because] they're sup-, they're teaching young children and they should be modeling proper English.
92	DP	Hm.
93	EP	And <u>proper</u> speech, not... I mean, that's... Saying THE CAR NEEDS WASHED is just wrong.
94	DP	Oh!
95	EP	[((laughs)) it's not... You're the English professor.]
96	DP	[((laughs))]
97	BJ	[You should know. Yeah. Um-hm.]
98	DP	I don't correct my s- uh... I suppose teaching the university is different. But uh =
99	BJ	= You don't point it out.
100	DP	I don't worry about it.
101	BJ	You know students who say that.
102	DP	Yeah. I'm not [gonna' fine them...]
103	EP	[But if they were to write that in a paper, you wouldn't correct it?]
104	DP	[But in a paper I would circle it.]
105	EP	Right.
106	DP	In a paper... that's right. I need to teach them standard English so they can talk to people who live outside Pittsburgh.
107	EP	Right. [Well, and that...]
108	BJ	[Um-hm]
109	EP	and that's fine. I mean, if they're talking with their friends, you know, that's one thing. Will you grab him?

110	DP	((laughs)) Maxx.
111	EP	( ) Oh, actually, there's a whole in the floor.
112	BJ	[Oh, there's a whole in the floor!]
113	EP	[He likes to look down in the basement.]
114	BJ	Are there mice down there, or something?
115	DP	Oh we, we don't know. [Maxx has never caught a single mouse] in his life. ((laughs))
116	EP	[We don't know. We haven't seen any.]
117	BJ	[He's a ( )]
118	EP	[He's never seen them, so...]
119	DP	He probably... he would probably run.] You'd probably run, wouldn't you Maxx? You want attention?
120	EP	I guess that's my point about teachers using it in school. You know, it's fine if they kids are just talking with their friends and saying that. But when ... they're in the classroom, they need to know what is proper English or standard English to be used here and then what is... you know, OK slang to use with their friends.
121	BJ	[Um-hm.]
122	EP	[They need to know] the difference.
123	BJ	You... have you heard the term YINZER?
124	DP	Yeah
125	EP	Yeah
126	BJ	Yeah? What does that mean?
127	DP	It means uh ((3-second pause)) old time Pittsburgher. [It means somebody]
128	EP	[Yeah, that...]
129	DP	who speaks and uses the word YINZ.
130	BJ	[Um-hm]
131	DP	[It means] somebody who's lived here for generations.
132	EP	Yeah, I've heard it before too. Like it =
133	DP	Yeah. Somebody who's lived in Pitts- uh...
134	EP	[some of the class-size technical Pittsburgher.
135	DP	[Pete <b>Figins</b> is a YINZER.]
136	BJ	Would you call him that to his face?
137	DP	Oh, he'd think it was hilarious if I called him that to his face.
138	EP	[((laughs))]
139	BJ	[((laughs))]
140	DP	Uh... that's true. I think it's probably a little bit of a pejorative term.
141	EP	Yeah.
142	BJ	Um-hm.
143	DP	Uh... I think that's right. I think it's a classist term.
144	EP	But I think people also [use it as a joking name. I don't know.]
145	DP	[It's a... it's a... it's not quite as bad as the word 'white trash.'] Which really... It's a term that really offends me. I think it's a racist and a [classist term.]

146	BJ	[Um-hm.]
147	DP	But I think it's... it's a ((3-second pause)) it's a local [variety of that.]
148	BJ	[Um-hm.]
149	DP	It's also... it's also nicer than the term ,white trash,' though, because it... it affirms a local identity.
150	BJ	Um-hm.
151	DP	So, I don't think it's quite as bad, but it... it has a tangent pejorative to it.
152	BJ	Um-hm.
153	EP	Yeah, I think I've heard it more, people ((4-second pause)) joking or teasing, or maybe even [((3-second pause))]
154	DP	[Yeah.]
155	EP	Like my friends from work ((6-second pause)) [other]
156	BJ	[Um-hm]
157	EP	Calling somebody that, but knowing that they really weren't that...
158	DP	Oh, right.
159	BJ	How would you say [that you know about]
160	EP	[I don't know.]
161	BJ	Uh... this is kind of a tricky question, but how do you know about Pittsburghese and YINZERS? I mean, is it... would you say it's more from =
162	DP	= [A lot of my students]
163	BJ	[laddering people, or it is it] =
164	DP	= [Yeah.]
165	BJ	[more from] talking to other people about what Pittsburghers are like?
166	EP	[Both]
167	DP	[Probably] the ladder. But I think more the ladder. I see... a lot of my students are from Pittsburgh.
168	BJ	[Um-hm.]
169	DP	[And] so, and... but the're also a lot of them claim that the dialect drives them nuts. Uh ((4-second pause)) more...=
170	EP	= But a lot of them aren't even in our ( ) which I think is probably a little bit different too.
171	BJ	[Um-hm.]
172	DP	[I think] more from hearing people talk about it.
173	BJ	[Um-hm]
174	DP	[I...I...I...] cl-... we clearly have neighbors who... a lot of them who... who... uh... who talk, but they're... I know many fewer of them than I know people who have talked about [YINZERS]
175	BJ	[Um-hm.]
176	DP	((chuckles)) as they were
177	BJ	Um-hm.
178	EP	I think... I mean for me in graduate school, and then working... I pro-came into contact when I first moved here, I mean I knew...and that people who were form Pittsburgh.

179	BJ	Um-hm.
180	EP	Uh... But at the same time, they were also, I mean in graduate school, they are more educated and so they... didn't use a lot of... the Pittsburghese that... that a lot of people do. Uh...=
181	DP	= Is that.... Is that...?
182	EP	And I think it's also from talking about it, because one of my best friends in grad school was from Michigan =
183	BJ	= Uhm.
184	EP	And <u>she</u> had a... I mean she and I... I had a Buffalo accent, she had a Michigan accent. And I mean, we didn't really notice, but we both noticed together the accent here. And it's really...[I did take]
185	BJ	[Um-hm]
186	EP	A while and sometimes I would notice things and someone would even point something out and then be like oh yeah, I didn't realize that was something...
187	DP	I definitely [think]
188	BJ	[Uh-uh]
189	DP	there's a class distinction.
190	EP	[Yeah.]
191	DP	[I mean,] it's definitely a social class that's enforced by language. [reinforced by language.]
192	EP	[But I think it's that way] in any city. I mean, Buffalo's accent is the same thing. The lower class has a much stronger uh... ((3-second pause)) flat 'a' than ((5-second pause)) [ ( )]
193	DP	[Right.]
194	BJ	I see. I mean, there's a lot of people... a lot of upper middle class professional people in Squirrel Hill who are from [Pittsburgh]
195	DP	[Really?]
196	BJ	And sound like they are, but =
197	DP	= Yeah
198	BJ	[Maybe]
199	EP	[Um-hm]
200	BJ	in different ways, or you know?
201	DP	[That's interesting.]
202	EP	[Yeah.]
203	BJ	I don't know yet.
204	DP	That's interesting.
205	BJ	So, uh...
206	DP	Maybe.... we... maybe... maybe that's the wrong way... well.... Well... I don't think that so... in other words, I was thinking uhm... uh... John... uh... I mean, we run into John across the street a lot...
207	EP	Uh-hm.
208	DP	on the street a lot. Uhm.. we watch each other's house when we leave =
209	EP	= [Right]

210	DP	[and so on.] But uh... we don't ((5-second pause)) interact socially.
211	EP	Right.
212	DP	I mean, you know, we don't go each other over... he's... he's never invited over for dinner, we've never invited him over for dinner
213	EP	[Um-hm]
214	DP	[And it's] not.... It uh.. uh... uh... I definitely think it's kind of classist thing. Uhm... I think that's the honest way that I can... I can label it.
215	BJ	Um-hm.
216	DP	The distinction between us in our relationship it's uh...
217	BJ	Hm.
218	DP	Uh... We don't go... I don't... in other words, I'm kind of [afraid]
219	EP	[Well...]
220	DP	to push our relationship more because I'm afraid we'll discover we don't have that much in common, [we]
221	BJ	[Um-hm]
222	DP	We won't interact as much.
223	EP	[Yeah.]
224	DP	[it's a little bit]
225	BJ	[Um-hm]
226	DP	kind of what I'm nervous about. Uh...
227	EP	I mean, we're [friends]
228	BJ	[Yeah.]
229	EP	Because ((4-second pause)) [we live next door to each other. We're neighbors.]
230	DP	[it's... it's a forced proximity]
231	EP	It's different than =
232	DP	= Right
233	EP	[( )]
234	BJ	[well, it's not as if you sank yourself if that person is not in the appropriate social class for me to interact with...
235	EP	Right.
236	DP	[No. No. No.]
237	BJ	[I mean]
238	EP	[No, it's not that.]
239	BJ	It's just that you would ((3-second pause)) probably you're afraid that you'd probably find out you didn't find out enough shared experience.
240	DP	I'm... I'm... [I...I...I]
241	EP	[Yeah.]
242	DP	actually worry about. I... I won't ask to be.. I want to have a good relationship with my neighbors.
243	BJ	Um-hm.
244	DP	And I'm kind of ((4-second pause)) I don't know, I've never liv-... I grew up in the suburbs, I've never lived in a neighborhood like this.

245	BJ	[Um-hm]
246	DP	[I don't]
247	EP	Well, I grew up [with neighbors.]
248	DP	[Neighboring] is a skill =
249	EP	= [Yeah]
250	DP	[Which I'm] developing.
251	BJ	Right.
252	EP	Well, I grew up with neighbors, and we never had our neighbors actually over for dinner, although they were close to us and my parents would talk with them all the time. And
253	DP	Um-hm. Yeah.
254	EP	Exchange Christmas presents and they'd always like bring presents over for our brothers at Christmas time and [things like that.]
255	DP	[Hm. Right]
256	EP	Uhm, but I don't think they ever... maybe if we had like a <u>big</u> graduation party or something like that, they might stop by. Uh, but the people who lived right next door to us, it was the same sort of relationship I think that we have with John.
257	DP	Yeah. Yeah.
258	BJ	[Neither of you has]
259	EP	[So...]
260	BJ	relatives here?
261	DP	No.
262	EP	No.
263	BJ	Um. Um-hm. Well, if you wouldn't mind, I've got some ((6-second pause)) a few... a couple other things that would I think just be interesting for me to have sort of on file...uh...
264	DP	Um-hm.
265	BJ	One would be to get you guys to read out loud. [Uhm...]
266	EP	[OK]